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**Letter dated 8 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith (see annex) the text of the Joint Communiqué concerning the visit made from 6 to 8 January 2002 to the Democratic Republic of the Congo by His Excellency Mr. Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi.

My Government requests you to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Best copy available

## Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Joint Communiqué issued at the end of the visit by His Excellency Mr. Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi

Bearing in mind the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council concerning the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Considering the contacts made between the two Ministers at New York in November 2001, in the course of the joint meeting of the Political Committee and the Security Council of the United Nations, and in Tokyo in December 2001, in the course of the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III), respectively,

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Léonard She Okitundu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of his Government, His Excellency Mr. Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, made a working visit to Kinshasa from 6 to 8 January 2002.

This visit also responds to the recommendation of the Security Council, expressed in its resolution 1376 (2001) of 9 November 2001, inviting the parties to the Lusaka Agreement to work with the Burundian authorities to advance the peace processes in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in view of the links existing between the two peace processes.

In the course of this visit, His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Major-General Joseph Kabila, granted an audience to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi.

The outcome of the audience with the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the talks held by the two Ministers was as follows:

**1. Situation prevailing in the two countries:**

With regard to the situation prevailing in the Republic of Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Governments of the two countries agree:

- To unite their efforts with a view to advancing the peace processes under way; they welcome the progress already made in the context of the implementation of the Arusha and Lusaka Agreements;
- To work together so as to restore the good relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation that have always existed between the two countries, to normalize them and henceforth to adhere in that regard to the relevant provisions of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) concerning, in particular, non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes;

- To work for the restoration of a climate of mutual trust between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Burundi;

- To relaunch bilateral consultation mechanisms and conclude a separate agreement defining the practical modalities for the implementation of the commitments made on 7 January 2002 at Kinshasa, in particular the Non-Aggression Pact, the details of which will be established at the forthcoming meeting of experts;

- To define and put in place an effective surveillance mechanism on their common frontiers.

**2. Commitments of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:**

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo undertakes:

- To contribute to the involvement of Burundian rebel groups in the Arusha Agreement process, which remains the only valid framework for consideration of their respective claims;

- To ensure the success of the negotiations to be organized within the framework of the regional initiative between these rebel groups and the transitional Government of Burundi;

- To take steps to ensure that its territory is not a base for armed attacks against Burundi.

**3. Commitments of the Government of the Republic of Burundi:**

- The Government of the Republic of Burundi formally undertakes to proceed to the effective withdrawal of its troops from Congolese territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charters of the United Nations and OAU/AU and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council as soon as the agreed surveillance mechanism has been put in place within the framework of a bilateral ad hoc agreement.

**4. Final provisions:**

The Governments of the two countries agreed to the convening in Bujumbura during the second half of February 2002 of a meeting of Congolese and Burundian experts to determine the practical modalities for translating their respective commitments into concrete action.

At the end of his working visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, expressed his appreciation to Major-General Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to his Government for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to him and to the members of his delegation during their stay in Kinshasa.

Mr. Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, took this opportunity to extend an invitation to Mr. Léonard She Okitundu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to make a working visit to Bujumbura, which was accepted with pleasure. The date of that visit will be determined by agreement through the diplomatic channel.

Done at Kinshasa on 7 January 2002